



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 913 967 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
06.05.1999 Bulletin 1999/18

(51) Int Cl. 6: **H04L 12/24, H04L 29/06**

(21) Application number: **98308896.4**

(22) Date of filing: **30.10.1998**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: **31.10.1997 US 962092**
25.03.1998 US 47906

(71) Applicant: **SUN MICROSYSTEMS, INC.**
Palo Alto, California 94303 (US)

(72) Inventors:

- **Angal, Rajeev**
Santa Clara, California 95051 (US)

- **Allavarpu, Sai V.S.**
Pleasanton, California 94566 (US)
- **Fisher, Bart Lee**
Sunnyvale, California 94086 (US)
- **Bapat, Subodh**
Palo Alto, California 94303 (US)

(74) Representative:
Cross, Rupert Edward Blount et al
BOULT WADE TENNANT,
27 Furnival Street
London EC4A 1PQ (GB)

(54) **System and method for providing database access control in a secure distributed network**

(57) An access control database has access control objects that collectively store information that specifies access rights by users to specified sets of the managed objects. The specified access rights include access rights to obtain management information from the network. An access control server provides users access to the managed objects in accordance with the access rights specified by the access control database. An information transfer mechanism sends management information from the network to a database management system (DBMS) for storage in a set of database tables. Each database table stores management information for a corresponding class of managed objects. A set of views limits access to the management information stored in the database tables. Each view defines a subset of rows in the database tables that are accessible when using this view. The set of database table rows that are accessible when using each view in the set corresponds to the managed object access rights specified by the access control database for at least one user. A view access control means specifies which views in the set of views are useable by specified ones of the users. The database access engine accesses information in the set of database tables using the set of views such that each user is allowed access only to management information in the set of database tables that the user would be allowed by the access control database to access.

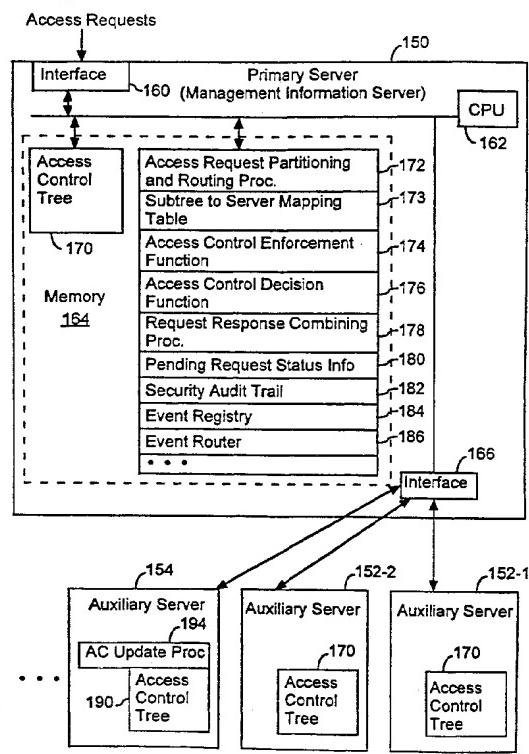


FIG. 3

